## UNIVERSAL / L & C PHONE SERVICES

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May 9, 2005

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Mr. Michael Powell (or Successor) Federal Corporation Commission 445 – 12<sup>th</sup> Street Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs:

I am a long-time provider of payphone service here in Arizona. I am also a concerned consumer, taxpayer and voter.

I receive my local telephone service from a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC). I have received better value and especially customer service than I was ever able to receive prior to having a competitive choice in local telecommunications service providers. Competition has reduced costs, increased customer service and benefited the consumer tremendously.

The recent <u>FCC TRO Remand Order</u> the FCC released has set competition back 10 years in the eyes of the consumer. As a result of your actions, my phone rates are going up no matter where I go. Rates have increased through both my competitive carrier and through the incumbent carrier (Qwest) as a result of your actions and therefore, I am left with higher costs and fewer choices for my telecommunication needs.

The Telecommunications Act of 1966 envisioned an active FCC role in supporting competitive access to the phone networks, not to sit idly by while jobs are lost, prices rise and four phone monopolies undo the progress of the past. We do not need more large phone companies — we need more small companies that listen to our needs and provide more choices in local service.

Sincerely,

Paul Lewinthal President

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